Deaths due to pesticides poisoning in Punjab

2430. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:
SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:
SHRI SHARAD YADAV:
SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item under the caption "Pesticide poisoning in Punjab" as reported in the *Indian Express* of the 22nd July, 1987;

(b) whether it is a fact that due to highly toxic pesticide, a large number of deaths have been taken place during the last one year; and

(c) full details of such highly toxic pesticides and steps taken by Government to discontinue the use of such pesticide in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Only the Cane Department of the Government of Punjab has reported four deaths during 1986-87 and one death, so far, during 1987-88 from Dhuri and Nava Shahar sugar mill areas due to use of Phorate/Carbofutician. Both the insecticides fall under the category of extremely toxic pesticides.

(c) Since Phorate and Carbofuran are extremely toxic insecticides, Government has taken following steps for their safe handling:—

(i) The Registration Committee constituted under Secton 5 of the Insecticides Act, 1968 has registered only encapsulated granular formulations of Carbofuran and Phorate from the point of view of safety to users.

(ii) Labels and leaflets on the containers of insecticides are mandatory requirements under the Insecticides Act and the Rules framed there under, which, *inter-alia*, contains various instructions on safety precautions for the benefits of farmers. These lables and leaflets are printed in three languages viz. Hindi English and one of the regional languages for the benefit of extension functionaries as well as farmers to enable them to follow the required safety precautions in handling the insecticides.

(iii) A coloured triangle is also incorporated on the lables and leaflets to categorise the category of toxicity of each insecticide. This helps the extension functionaries in imparting proper training to uneducated farmers on safe use of pesticides.

(iv) The Extension functionaries of the State Governments as well as Associations of the Pesticides Industry organise training programmes on safe use of insecticides for the benefit of farmers and pesticide distributors.

All the registered insecticides, even those falling under the category of "Highly toxic pesticides" do not pose any risk to human health if they are used as per prescribed directions and with proper safety methods. Therefore the Government has not contemplated discontinuance of use of such pesticides.

Insecticides approved for grant of Licence

2431. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Registration Committee of Central Insecticides Board have enlisted products for which registration can be granted to the new